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August 9, 2002

HAND DELIVER

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary  
Department of Telecommunications and Energy  
One South Station  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: The Berkshire Gas Company, D.T.E. 02-17

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Enclosed please find the responses of The Berkshire Gas Company (the "Company") to the First Set of Information Requests of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("DTE") reflected in the attached list. Please note that the attachments to certain responses include confidential materials primarily drawn from the ongoing proceeding in D.T.E. 02-19 regarding alliance agreements between the Company and BP Energy Company. For purposes of administrative efficiency, the Company respectfully requests that these materials be accorded confidential treatment for all the reasons stated in the Company's April 5, 2002 Motion in docket D.T.E. 02-19. The Company is providing copies of these materials to the Hearing Officer and the Attorney General and the Division of Energy Resources; copies to the Attorney General and the Division of Energy Resources are pursuant to previously executed confidentiality agreements.

Please call me if you require further assistance with respect to these matters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

BROWN RUDNICK BERLACK ISRAELS LLP

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
James M. Avery

JMA/cdw  
Enclosure

cc: Jody M. Stiefel, Esq, Hearing Officer (w/1 enc via hand delivery)  
Andreas Thanos, Assistant Director, Gas Division (w/4 enc via hand delivery)  
Alexander J. Cochis, Esq., Assistant Attorney General (w/2 enc via hand delivery)  
Carol Wasserman, Esq. (w/1 enc via hand delivery)  
Karen L. Zink, Vice President (w/1 enc)

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**Department of Telecommunications and Energy  
First Set of Information Requests**

**THE BERKSHIRE GAS COMPANY  
DTE 02-17**

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